

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 21-26, 29-42, 44, and 45 are pending in the application. Claims 27, 28, and 43 are canceled by this Amendment. Claim 45 is added by this Amendment. The Examiner's indication that claims 22, 24, 25, 28, 36, 37, and 44 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged.

In paragraph 3 of the Office action , the Examiner indicates that the information disclosure statement filed on May 10, 2004 (actually filed on May 7, 2004 and received by the PTO on May 10, 2004) has been crossed out since the Examiner was unable to see the figures clearly. In a telephone interview with the undersigned on March 23, 2005, the Examiner indicated that the information disclosure statement was scanned upon receipt at the U.S. Patent Office, and that the scanned images were not clearly visible. The Examiner suggested re-filing the information disclosure statement with gray-scaled versions of the photographs so that they might be clearer upon scanning. A copy of the May 7, 2004 information disclosure statement is being re-filed with this Amendment. Consideration of the information disclosure statement is respectfully requested.

The Applicants have amended independent claim 21 to incorporate some of the features recited in allowable dependent claim 25. Specifically, claim 21 has been amended to further recite "a one-piece retainer releasably coupled to the support member, the retainer including a first arm portion having a distal end, a second arm portion having a distal end, and a base portion interconnecting the first and second arm portions such that a container can be engaged and retained by the first and second arm portions, the distal ends being spaced and configured to accept entry of the container such that the arm portions deflect away from one another as the container enters between the distal ends." Based on the Examiner's indication that claims 25, 28, and 44 contain allowable subject matter, the Applicant's believe that the amendment to claim 21 puts claim 21 into condition for allowance.

Independent claim 21 has also been amended by removing the recitation that the retainer can be uncoupled from the support member without the use of tools upon disengagement of the support member from the mounting member. It is believed that this

feature is not necessary to define over the cited prior art. New dependent claim 45 depends from claim 21 and includes this feature. Dependent claim 25 has been amended to conform to the amendment to claim 21.

For these and other reasons not described herein, independent claim 21 and dependent claims 22-25 and 45 are allowable.

The Applicants have also amended independent claim 26 to incorporate the features recited in allowable dependent claim 28. For this and other reasons not discussed herein, independent claim 26 and dependent claims 29-37 are allowable. Dependent claims 27 and 28 have been canceled in light of the amendment to claim 26. Dependent claim 29 has been amended for proper dependency.

The Applicants have also amended independent claim 38 to incorporate some of the features recited in allowable dependent claim 44. Specifically, claim 38 has been amended to further recite “wherein the retainer means includes first and second arm portions connected by a base portion such that the container can be engaged and retained between the first and second arm portions; and wherein each of the arm portions includes a distal end, the distal ends of the respective arm portions being spaced and configured to accept entry of the container such that the arm portions deflect away from one another as the container enters between the distal ends.” Based on the Examiner’s indication that claims 25, 28, and 44 contain allowable subject matter, the Applicant’s believe that the amendment to claim 38 puts claim 38 into condition for allowance. Dependent claim 43 has been canceled and dependent claim 44 has been amended to conform to the amendment to claim 38.

For these and other reasons not described herein, independent claim 38 and dependent claims 39-42 and 44 are allowable.

Because the amendments to independent claims 21, 26, and 38 are believed to put the application into condition for allowance, the Applicants need not specifically address the prior art rejections made by the Examiner. However, the above amendments are not to be

construed as a concession that the Examiner's rejections are appropriate, and the Applicants reserve the right to traverse the Examiner's rejections in this application and in continuing applications in the future if necessary.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this Amendment, the undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,



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